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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT The Petr Bezruc Coal Mine
in Moravska Ostrava
25X1A

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(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The Petr Bezruc coal mine, called the Theresa Mine (Jama Terezie) until 1947, is located in Moravska Ostrava VIII (P 50/059). The main gate is at the intersection of Michalkovicka Street and 28th of October Street, and the plant yards cover an area of about six hectares. The mine, which belonged to the Vitkovice (P 50/0 59) Ironworks until 1945, is one of the 32 mines in this area combined under the OKD (Ostrava-Karvinske Doly-Ostrava-Karvinna Mines), whose headquarters are on Stalin Square in Moravska Ostrava.
2. The Petr Bezruc Mine, one of the oldest in Ostrava, was established about 1890 and is now 900 meters deep. It has six main levels. The fifth level was put into operation in 1925, and the sixth level in 1940-1941. The mine did not suffer any damages during the war, and in 1948 a new administration building was erected at Gate I. A tunnel is now being built from the sixth level of the Petr Bezruc Mine to the Stalin II Mine east of Hrusov. The main tunnel designed to connect these two mines already extends for a kilometer and is 4.5 meters wide and 3 meters high. Fifteen cubic meters of earth must be removed to extend the tunnel one meter. Three tracks have been laid in the tunnel. By 1958 the Petr Bezruc Mine, the Stalin II Mine, and the Petr Cingr Mine in Michalkovice are scheduled to be interconnected and expanded to a single large mine. The Stalin II Mine, which is also designated Viktorka Mine, will allegedly be used as the main exit for the coal. The plans for this project were originally made by the Germans. (1)
3. The mine is equipped with pneumatic hammers manufactured by a new branch of the Vitkovice Ironworks. The mine's equipment also includes chutes, conveyor belts, diesel locomotives, and a haulage cage. A normal gauge railway spur connects the mining area and the main railroad line. Power is supplied from outside. Compressed air comes from the Stalin I plant. If this supply of compressed air should fail, the Petr Bezruc mine can use its own compressors, but these are very weak. (2)

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4. The mine produces low-quality bituminous coal, suitable only for use as coke. The coal is sent to the Karolina Coking Plant near the Frydland Railroad Station (sic). The daily output at Petr Bezruc ranged from 1,200 to 1,400 metric tons in March 1950. At the same time, the total daily output of the 32 OKD mines was 46,000-50,000 metric tons. Production was usually 108-110 percent of the quota and sometimes even 125 percent. (3)
5. Officials at the Petr Bezruc Mine included the following: Engineer Jandera, (fnu), a Czech national about 50 years old; Engineer Telatynsky, (fnu), a 45-year-old Soviet national, employed at the mine since 1948 and assigned to set the norms; Engineer Dlabaja, (fnu), a Czech national about 35 years old, who organizes the Hennecke movement in the plant.
6. The work force at the mine numbered about 500 men in March 1950. (4) Work was done in the following three shifts: 6 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; 1:30 p.m.-9 p.m.; 9 p.m.-4:30 a.m. Work norms depend on the hardness of the rock. Since December 1949, work has been done according to a work catalogue, edited by the Labor Ministry. So far the catalogue has been edited only for the mining industry.
7. The plant militia numbered 60-80 men, equipped with carbines. The chief of the militia unit was one Stepanik, (fnu).

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[REDACTED] Comment.

- (1) The map in Annex I, which is based on the 1:100,000 map of the area, shows the location of the three mines to be connected. No other mines have been indicated on the map.
- (2) In Annex II is a sketch of the installations above-ground at the Petr Bezruc Mine. The sketch, drawn by source, is at times at variance with the more accurate map in Annex I. Cableways to the Karoline and the Stalin I mines are drawn on the sketch, but [REDACTED] of these mines. [REDACTED], the winding road running west from the plant's main gate to the river road is Michalkovicka Street, while the straight road running southwest from the main gate is 28th of October Street.
- (3) The Ostrava-Karvinna coal district, the Czechoslovakian section of the Silesian coal area, is estimated to have deposits amounting to 7-25 billion metric tons, while the Polish part is estimated to contain 60-140 billion tons. (The coal figures in this comment include anthracite and bituminous coal, but not lignite.) In 1950 the average monthly output of Ostrava-Karvinna coal mines has been about 1.1 million metric tons. During 1947, when the Ostrava-Karvinna mines employed 38,725 of the 56,701 men working in the Czech coal industry, this district produced 12.88 million tons of coal, about 80 percent of the total Czech coal production of 16.2 million tons. In 1948 the total Czech coal production was 17.74 million tons, and in 1949 it was again about 18 million tons. The five-year plan envisages that this production will reach 20.8 million tons by 1953. The maximum coal output in Czechoslovakia occurred in 1943, when production reached 24.5 million tons. The work force at that time numbered 76,504 men, whereas it was only 43,021 in 1937 and 59,985 in 1948. In 1943, the maximum individual output was 320.2 tons a year, as opposed to 295.8 tons in 1948 and 387.5 tons in 1937. To overcome the constant labor shortage, members of labor brigades are employed on a long term basis, and soldiers are also assigned to the mines.
- (4) This figure probably refers to the number of workers employed in each shift.

- Annexes:
1. Sketch showing location of mines to be connected.
 2. Sketch showing location of above-ground installations of Petr Bezruc mine, with legend.
 3. List of mines assigned to the OKD Mine Association.

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